GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:479
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
REVAMPING OF P.D.S.
GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAV;SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take series of measure ensuring improvement in the Public Distriibution System at States and Territory level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)
(a) & (b) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.479 FOR ANSWER IN THE SABHA ON 27-04-2000.

(a) & (b): Government has adopted a series of measures to better targetise food subsidy and to enhance the food security of people living below poverty line (BPL) under the PublicDistribution System (PDS).Allocation of foodgrains under TPDS has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost and allocation for APL families has been maintained at economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000. In case any State wishes to have more supplies, the Government would meet that requirement too at economic costs.

PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments.The responsibility for distribution to the consumer through Fair Price Shops (FPSs) andadministration of PDS rests with State Governments/UT Administrations.In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under PDS to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a Model Citizens` Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoptionBased on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government has also advised the State Governments to more substantially involve Gram Panchayatsin supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

It has also been impressed upon the State Governments that allotments to the fair price shops should be conveyed by the district authorities before the beginning of each month and publicity regarding allotments to FPS should be given through the local media.The fair price shops should be asked to display on the notice boards the allotment they have received for the month along with closing balance. State Government can provide for obligations under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act 1955 to penalise the violation of the procedure relating to display of information by the FPS owner. The fair price shop should open on all prescribed days and complaints regarding closure during working hours should be addressed seriously. Ration cards should be issued in a time bound and transparent manner by the authorities and the administrative system should be accountable to the public bodies in this regard. All efforts should be made to weed out the bogus ration cards in the States and State Governments should devise alternative documents as instruments of identification. Ration cards under the PDS should not be used for this purpose.

For speedy monitoring of TPDS State Governments have been requested to furnish the TPDS information on time and ensure online connectivity of District NIC centers with the State NIC centres so that PDS data are updated and transmitted to the Ministry regularly The Government of India is evolving a system whereby data relating to allotments and lifting by each fair price shop in the district will be fed into the NIC computer on a monthly basis to ensure better monitoring mechanism for the PDS.